

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently amended) A method for reducing phytotoxicity in a chemical treatment of ~~caused by chemical treatment~~ for a fruit or vegetable, consisting essentially of ~~treating said fruit or vegetable by applying such chemical treatment to said fruit or vegetable, and applying a composition consisting essentially of~~ lecithins and/or derivatives thereof, a chemical treatment agent, and an oil base to said fruit or vegetable, wherein:

said chemical treatment agent consists essentially of eugenol or salts thereof;
~~— a formulation of the lecithins and/or derivatives thereof either in an aqueous solution or in a vegetable oil is diluted in an aqueous dispersion before the treatment; and~~

the lecithin and/or derivatives thereof are applied to the fruit or vegetable at a concentration of between 100 and 5000 ppm.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the lecithins and/or derivatives contain one or more lysolecithins and/or derivatives.

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the lecithins and/or derivatives contain between 30% and 60% of lysolecithins and/or derivatives.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the derivatives are selected from distearyl, dipalmityl or dioleoyl compounds of phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylinositol, phosphatidylethanolamine or phosphatic acid and optionally the corresponding lyso derivatives or mixtures thereof.

43. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 42, wherein the lecithins and/or derivatives and the ~~treatment(s)~~chemical treatment agent are applied simultaneously, separately or staggered over time.

44-46. (Cancelled).

47. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a treatment agent for fruits and vegetables and one or more lecithins and/or derivatives thereof, dissolved in an oil base, wherein:

the treatment agent consists essentially of eugenol or salts thereof;

the composition consists essentially of 10% to 30% of treatment agent, 10% to 40% of lecithins and/or derivatives thereof and 30% to 60% of the oil base;

and the oil base is a vegetable oil base.

48-53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 47, which contains from 10% to 30% of eugenol, from 10% to 40% of lecithins and/or derivatives, and from 30% to 60% of vegetable oil.

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 47, wherein a ratio of lecithins and/or derivatives relative to the treatment agent is from 1:3 to 3:1.

57. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 56, wherein the ratio is from 1:2 to 1.5:1.

58. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 47, wherein the lecithins and/or derivatives are lysolecithins and/or derivatives thereof.

59. (Previously presented) A method for treating a fruit or vegetable consisting essentially of applying to the fruit or vegetable a composition according to claim 47.

60. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the composition is diluted in water at a ratio of from 1 to 20 l/m³ of water.

61. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the composition is diluted beforehand in water and applied at a temperature of from 30° to 60°C.

62. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the composition is applied by means of immersion, showering, sprinkling or coating using an absorbent paper.

63. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the application of the composition is carried out after harvesting the fruit or vegetable.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the application of the composition is carried out before harvesting the fruit or vegetable by means of spraying.

65. (Currently amended) A method for treating a fruit or vegetable by applying, to the fruit or vegetable, lecithins and/or derivatives thereof, before, after, or at the same time as a physical treatment of the fruit or vegetable by means of heat or cold, wherein the method consists essentially of the steps of: consisting essentially of:

diluting, in an aqueous dispersion, a formulation of lecithins and/or derivatives thereof in an aqueous solution or in a vegetable oil;

adding a treatment agent consisting essentially of eugenol or salts thereof to form a composition; and

applying the resultant composition to the fruit or vegetable, and wherein the lecithin and/or derivatives thereof are applied to the fruit or vegetable at a concentration of between 100 and 5000 ppm.

66. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composition according to claim 47, comprising adding the lecithins or derivatives to the oil base followed by addition of the treatment agent(s).

67. (Previously Presented) A method for preserving lecithins and/or derivatives thereof consisting essentially of mixing a treatment agent consisting essentially of eugenol or salts thereof with the lecithins and/or derivatives in an oil base.

68. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 67, wherein the treatment agent has antioxidant, fungicidal or bactericidal properties.

69. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 67, wherein the treatment agent is eugenol.

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 67, wherein the treatment agent represents from 1 to 50% by weight of the lecithins and/or derivatives.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 69, wherein the treatment agent represents from 1 to 50% by weight of the lecithins and/or derivatives.

72. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing phytotoxicity in a chemical treatment of ~~caused by chemical treatment for~~ a fruit or vegetable, consisting essentially of ~~treating said fruit or vegetable by applying such chemical treatment to said fruit or vegetable, and~~ applying a composition consisting essentially of lecithins and/or derivatives thereof and a chemical treatment agent to said fruit or vegetable, wherein:

the chemical treatment agent consists essentially of eugenol or salts thereof;

the lecithins and/or derivatives are formulated either in an aqueous solution or in a vegetable oil and then diluted in an aqueous dispersion before the treatment; and the lecithin and/or derivatives are applied to the fruit or vegetable at a concentration of between 100 and 5000 ppm.

73. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a fruit or vegetable ~~by applying to the fruit or vegetable, lecithins and/or derivatives thereof and a treatment agent consisting essentially of eugenol or salts thereof, before, after, or at the same time as a physical treatment of the fruit or vegetable by means of heat or cold, wherein the method consists~~ consisting essentially of the steps of:

formulating the lecithins and/or derivatives thereof in an aqueous solution or in a vegetable oil;

diluting the formulation in an aqueous dispersion;

adding ~~the treatment agent~~ eugenol or salts thereof to the formulation to form a composition; and

applying the resultant composition to the fruit or vegetable, and wherein

the lecithin and/or derivatives thereof are applied to the fruit or vegetable at a concentration of between 100 and 5000 ppm.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the composition consists essentially of from 10% to 30% chemical treatment agent, and from 10% to 40% lecithins and/or derivatives thereof.

75. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing phytotoxicity in a chemical treatment of ~~caused by chemical treatment for~~ a fruit or vegetable, consisting essentially of ~~treating said fruit or vegetable by applying such chemical treatment to said fruit or vegetable, and~~ applying a composition consisting essentially of lecithins and/or derivatives thereof, a chemical treatment agent, and an oil base to said fruit or vegetable, wherein:

said chemical treatment agent consists essentially of eugenol or salts thereof;
~~— a formulation of the lecithins and/or derivatives thereof either in an aqueous solution or in a vegetable oil is diluted in an aqueous dispersion before the treatment;~~

the lecithin and/or derivatives are applied to the fruit or vegetable at a concentration of between 100 and 5000 ppm; and

the composition comprises from 10% to 30% chemical treatment agent, and from 10% to 40% lecithins and/or derivatives thereof.

76. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a fruit or vegetable by ~~applying, to the fruit or vegetable, lecithins and/or derivatives thereof, before, after, or at the same time as a physical treatment of the fruit or vegetable by means of heat or cold, wherein the method consists consisting~~ essentially of the steps of:

diluting, in an aqueous dispersion, a formulation of lecithins and/or derivatives thereof in an aqueous solution or in a vegetable oil;

adding a treatment agent consisting essentially of eugenol or salts thereof to form a composition; and

applying the resultant composition to the fruit or vegetable;
~~and~~ wherein the lecithin and/or derivatives thereof are applied to the fruit or vegetable at a concentration of between 100 and 5000 ppm; and

the composition contains from 10% to 30% of the treatment agent, and from 10% to 40% lecithins and/or derivatives thereof.